



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EST (NOAA)

### **Agricultural Weather Highlights - Wednesday - January 22, 2003**

- ***In the West***, beneficial rain and snow showers continue from the ***Pacific Coast States to the northern Rockies***, but unfavorably dry conditions persist elsewhere.
- ***On the Plains***, beneficial light snow accompanies an Arctic cold front edging westward across the ***northern portions of the region***, maintaining a shallow protective snow cover for winter wheat from ***Montana to parts of Nebraska***. Although winter wheat on the drought-stricken ***central High Plains*** remains largely exposed, bitterly cold air (this morning's temperatures were as low as -25 degrees F in ***eastern Montana***) is confined to areas farther north and east.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, wind chill advisories and warnings are posted for bitterly cold weather and gusty winds. The frigid conditions are maintaining stress on livestock and curtailing outdoor activities.
- ***In the South***, rain showers extend from ***Alabama to South Carolina*** in advance of another strong push of cold air. Wind chill advisories are posted for later today as far south as the ***Delta***.

**Outlook:** An Arctic cold front will sweep across the ***eastern half of the nation*** today and on Thursday, accompanied by an area of light snow from the ***central Plains to the southern Mid-Atlantic region***. Bitterly cold air will spread south and eastward in the front's wake, bringing the threat of hard freezes through week's end to the ***Gulf Coast States***, including ***central and northern Florida***. Meanwhile, a series of Pacific storm systems will maintain unsettled weather across the ***Pacific Northwest and northern Rockies***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for January 27-31 calls for wetter-than-normal weather in the ***Pacific Northwest, upper Great Lakes region, Rio Grande Valley, and southern Florida***, but mostly dry weather across the remainder of the U.S. Below-normal temperatures are forecast in the ***Southeast***, while warmer-than-normal weather is expected across the ***Plains, Midwest***, and most areas from the ***Rockies westward***.

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